



Kootenai National Forest
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News Release

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Kootenai National Forest Fire Update for August 17

LIBBY, Mont. August 17, 2015 4:45 p.m. – Monitoring and suppression efforts are in full swing as firefighters continue to manage existing fires while searching for any holdover fires that remain from last week's lightning strikes. There have been 52 fires started by lightning in the last eight days on the National Forest and eight on state land. Following is update on fire activity by district.

Location: Rexford/Fortine

Jurisdiction: USFS

Type 2 Team Update: The Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team is responsible for what is now being referred to as the Northeast Kootenai Complex. This complex includes the Barnaby Fire, Marston Fire, Sunday Fire, Weigel Fire, and Dunn Fire. The Marston Fire is the largest of the five at approximately 2,000 acres. The team has good perimeter information on Marston and they are in the process of putting in contingency fire line to keep the fire from spreading. The Flathead Hotshot crew is working on the Marston Fire as well. The Sunday Fire is holding at approximately 160 acres and crews are continuing to secure existing fire line. Suppression of the Barnaby fire is being developed with the safety of firefighters in mind, as the area in question contains dangerous snags and difficult terrain. Fire line has been built around the entire perimeter of both the Weigel Fire (100 acres) and the Dunn Fire (70 acres).

Other Fires: Another lightning strike fire, the West Fortine Fire (0.2 acres), was found last night. This fire received aggressive initial attack and should be under control today. The Pinto Point fire is 28 acres and is being managed today with equipment, water and firefighters. The No Seeum Fire has a water tender and firefighters working on it today; it is less than two acres. The Tween Fire (2.5 acres) is benefitting from fire line being created by logging equipment in the area. Snags are also being removed from the Tween Fire to make it safe for crews. The Ural 3 Fire is small (0.25 acres) but has been showing some activity, it is being closely monitored.

There is a public meeting in Trego at 7:00 p.m. at the Trego Civic Center on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

Location: Troy

Jurisdiction: USFS

Fire Update: Troy continues to make progress managing the four fires on the district. The Cyclone Fire (20 acres) has fire line built around its perimeter and is the focus of firefighter activity in that area. The Teepee Mountain Fire is (40 acres) and work is being done to create access for heavy equipment to the fire area. The Sawtooth Fire (150 acres) is being monitored and a suppression plan is being developed. The Teepee Trail fire is under control and being patrolled.

Location: Libby

Jurisdiction: USFS

Fire Update: Libby has four fires, three of which are in the Blue Mountain area and all three should be under control by the end of the day. The fourth fire, Midas Creek (6 acres), will take several more days to completely contain, but district firefighters are focusing their efforts in this area. The Klatawa Fire (150 acres) is burning in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness; the district is continuing to monitor its growth and develop a plan for suppression.

Location: Trout Creek

Jurisdiction: USFS

Type 3 Team Update: The Type 3 Team is making progress on the group of fires being referred to as the Napoleon Fire. Included in this group of fires are Hamilton (20 acres), Star Gulch (20 acres), Government, Napoleon (formerly Napoleon 1 and 2 which have now merged into one 80 acre fire) and Napoleon 3 (30 acres). Several of these fires are near private property. Effort is being focused on securing those areas and structure protection.

Other Fires: There are five fires burning in or near the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness on the Trout Creek District, including the Poplar Point Fire (120 acres), Chippewa Fire (50 acres), Berray 1 (50 acres), Berray 2 (15 acres), and Vimy (6 acres). Vimy and Chippewa have low potential for movement but they are being closely monitored. Poplar, Berray 1 and Berray 2 are showing more activity and suppression plans are being developed. Firefighters are working the Lone Creek Fire (3 acres) and the Elk Mountain Fire (1.2 acres) today and plan to have them under control in order to free up more resources for tomorrow.

There is a public meeting in Noxon at 6:00 p.m. at the Noxon Fire Hall on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

Updates will be distributed as more information becomes available.

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